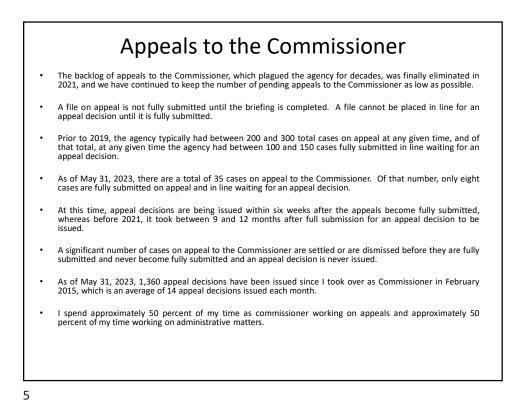
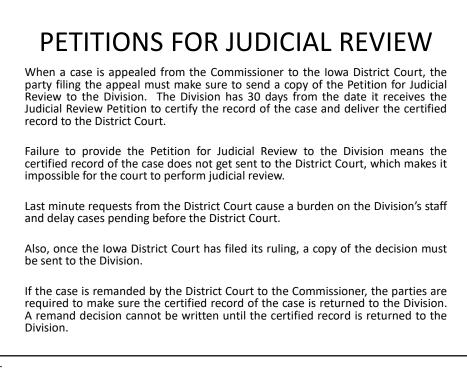


Alternate Medical Care Petitions and Decisions	
The number of Alternate Medical Care Petitions and decisions has declined somewhat over the past few years.	
Alternate Care Petitions:	
FY18578	
FY19559	
FY20451	
FY21452	
FY22492	
FY23535 – As of May 31, 2023	
Many Alternate Medical Care Petitions are filed due to lack of authorization for treatment recommended an authorized physician and are dismissed when authorization is given.	by
Alternate Care Decisions:	
FY18137	
FY19131	
FY20107	
FY21108	
FY2277	
FY2372 – As of May 31, 2023	





## Internet-Based Video Hearings

Pursuant to an Order filed in March of 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person hearings in all regular procedure workers' compensation cases in lowa were suspended and all hearings were to be held using an internet video conferencing system.

Pursuant to an Order filed on August 12, 2022, as of October 29, 2022, and continuing indefinitely, all hearings in regular procedure contested case proceedings before the agency are held by internet-based video, unless the agency grants a motion for an in-person hearing. The Deputy Commissioner assigned to hear the case schedules the videoconference and sends the meeting invitation to the attorneys of record no later than 24 hours before the scheduled start time of the hearing.

The parties to a regular procedure hearing may move for an in-person hearing in the venue listed in the hearing assignment order. The motion for in-person hearing must be filed no less than 60 days prior to the hearing date and, if not so filed, the right to request an in-person hearing is waived. The motion for in-person hearing must specify whether the hearing shall be entirely in-person, or whether any parties and/or witnesses will participate via internet video.

If all the parties to a case file a joint motion for in-person hearing, the motion shall be granted. If the motion for inperson hearing is not a joint motion signed and filed by all the parties to a case, the party or parties requesting the inperson hearing shall make a showing of good cause for the hearing to be in-person.

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## **Deputy Commissioners** and Support Staff At the Division of Workers' Compensation, we have 12 Deputy Work Comp Commissioners who hear the cases, who write the arbitration decisions, who help with appeals, who rule on all the motions, and who perform other important time-consuming and difficult duties. We also have an Assistant Commissioner, two compliance analysts, a hearing administrator, two docket clerks, three word processors, an appeals support clerk, a records request clerk, and our administrative secretary. All of these people are very talented and hardworking. They do a great job of making the Division run as smoothly as possible with extremely limited resources which continue to become more and more limited as budget constraints continue to increase. I want to pay tribute to every one of these people for their tremendous service to the workers' compensation community and to the people of the State of Iowa, and I thank them for their hard work and for their dedication. Whenever you have the opportunity, please thank them for everything they do.

## Closing

For me, personally, it is a very distinct pleasure and a great honor to serve the people of the State of Iowa and the workers' compensation community as the Workers' Compensation Commissioner.

As you may know, my first six-year term as Commissioner ended more than two years ago on April 30, 2021. Shortly before my term expired, I was appointed by Governor Reynolds to serve a second six-year term. In May of 2021, my reappointment was confirmed by a vote of the Iowa Senate.

Please feel free to contact me with your questions and concerns. I am here to serve all of you and I will listen when you contact me.

Thank you to everyone at the Division of Workers' Compensation, and to everyone else, for the generous support and the kind consideration I have received in the eight years since I took over as Commissioner. I look forward to the next several years. Thank you!

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